



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

3101 Park  
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA  
22302-1500

March 15, 2006

Dear Software Industry Executive:

The tenth release of the Child Nutrition Database (CN10) is currently available for computer software companies that have either received approval from the Department of Agriculture for their nutrient analysis software or are in the process of becoming USDA-approved. The CN10 release contains over 3,500 new or revised items for a total of 10,656 food items, including about 8,000 processed foods.

**USDA-approved software companies are required to submit their CN10 updated software to the evaluation coordinator no later than 90 days from the date of this letter.** The tenth release can be downloaded from the Healthy School Meals Resource System website at <http://schoolmeals.nal.usda.gov/Software/index.html>. This web location also contains the *System Components and File Formats* (SCFF) document that defines the structural design of the CN10 Database. This document has been reformatted to improve legibility. It is important to note that the SCFF document contains a clarification regarding how to handle items in the database that are marked as "d" for "discontinued" in the status field of the database. All Standard Reference (SR) 18 updates have been applied to the SR products included in this release and 131 products from SR18 have been added to CN10. The Moisture Fat Change Table listed as "MSFTCHG" has been marked as discontinued in CN10 and will be removed with the release of CN11. Trans Fat has been added as an optional nutrient (Nutrient code 605) and all SR18 trans fat data within the CN database has been updated. All of the Chef's Challenge recipes have been marked as discontinued in CN10 and will be removed from CN11.

As a reminder, it is required that there are no automatic conversions to fluid ounce, milliliter and liter measurements by USDA-approved software. It is acceptable for these liquid measurements to be included only if the data is presented this way in the Weights Table of the CN Database. Additionally it is required that fractions be used on recipe reports, including the scaled/yield-adjusted recipes. Lastly, it is recommended that both the Retinol Equivalents and the International Units data be included on all reports and screens.

Nutrient analysis software developers are invited to attend either of two National SMI Training sessions intended for new State agency employees or for those that need refresher training. Registration information for this training opportunity is enclosed.

The CN Database is an integral part of both the USDA-approved Nutrient Standard Menu Planning and School Meals Initiative (SMI) Nutrient Analysis Software. The new data is

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vital to School Meals Program administrators, especially the updated and new nutrient values. **We ask that USDA-approved software developers notify Tim Vázquez at (703) 305-2609, as soon as possible if your software users will not be updated with the new CN10 Database within 90 days of receiving this letter.** Tim is also available to answer any questions you may have about the new CN10 Database. Once updated within the 90 day deadline, please forward a copy of your software to Natalie Partridge, 66 Penrose Drive, West Springfield, MA, 01089.

Sincerely,

**Original Signed**

STANLEY C. GARNETT  
Director  
Child Nutrition Division

Enclosure